

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 23, 1999 LB 78

SENATOR BRUNING: In the city of Omaha, Senator, the ratepayers don't necessarily have the choice. MUD is the only provider.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right.

SENATOR BRUNING: In the outlying areas, each city council has the opportunity to approve or not approve the franchise, so they do have that ability to approve or disapprove a company through their city council.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But I live in Omaha, so what is it to me what happens in these outlying areas? If you pay a higher rate, what is that to me? They're not going to turn my gas off.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BRUNING: Well, but you may pay a higher rate as well, Senator, if MUD, which is your provider in the city of Omaha, double pipes and spends money that it probably doesn't need to spend.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How much...

SENATOR BRUNING: They're spending your ratepayer money.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How much do you think my gas bill will raise a year if this double piping occurs in these outlying areas and MUD wants to go there? What would my...what would the increase be on a percentage basis, if you know?

SENATOR BRUNING: I don't know, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Would it be 50 percent for each ratepayer?

SENATOR BRUNING: I wouldn't think so.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Me either. Would it be one percent for each ratepayer?

SENATOR BRUNING: Possibly.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But not necessarily that much even, true?